

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the final office action dated August 2, 2007. After entry of this amendment, claims 27-46 are pending in the application. Claims 27-45 have been added. Claims 1-26 have been cancelled. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in light of the remarks made herein.

Applicant respectfully submits that new claim 27 and its dependent claims 28-31 are neither anticipated nor obvious in light of the references of record. Generally, claim 27 relates to a modular base for an industrial machine that is configured to perform a specific manufacturing operation. As explained in applicant's specification, the modular base allows the fixturing and tooling of the industrial machine to be replaced without having to realize the cost of having to rebuild and/or replace the surrounding equipment.

Claim 27 includes "a mounting table fabricated from hardened steel and having a substantially plate-like configuration." This element is explained in applicant's specification with reference to the mounting table 14, which is described therein as being fabricated from hardened steel in order to support the weight of the industrial machine 12. Claim 27 also includes "a plurality of apertures extending through said mounting table" in order to secure the industrial machine to the mounting table, and this element is explained in applicant's specification with reference to the apertures 25. Applicant respectfully submits that none of the references of record teach or suggest a mounting table **as claimed** having apertures **as claimed** in order to provide a modular base for an industrial machine that is configured to perform a specific manufacturing operation.

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Claim 27 also includes “a control panel configured to be in electronic communication with the industrial machine to cause the industrial machine to perform the specific manufacturing operation.” This element is explained in Applicant’s specification with reference to control panel 24. Applicant respectfully submits that a control panel configured **as claimed** is not a stock element, since it is configured to perform a dedicated function, i.e. causing the industrial machine to perform the specific manufacturing operation. There is no teaching or suggestion in the references of record to provide a modular base for an industrial machine that includes this structure.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 27 and its dependent claims 28-31 are not taught or suggested by the references of record, and should be patentable. In the event that the Examiner disagrees, Applicant respectfully requests, in the interest of compact prosecution and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.104(a), that the Examiner designate the particular teachings relied upon in each cited reference and clearly explain their pertinence.

Turning now to independent claim 32 and its dependent claims 33-39, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are neither anticipated nor obvious in light of the references of record. As with claim 27, Claim 32 relates generally to a modular base for an industrial machine having various types of fixturing and tooling configured to perform a specific manufacturing operation.

Claim 32 includes “a plurality of telescopically adjustable legs,” which are claimed as follows:

a plurality of telescopically adjustable legs each connected to said mounting table, each said telescopically adjustable leg having a first support with a roller connected thereto, and a second support having an independently operable electric drive configured to independently

adjust the height of each leg, and to selectively engage and disengage said roller with a foundation. (Claim 32)

Parsing this language carefully reveals several inter-related elements. First, each leg has a first support, which is described in Applicant's specification with reference to the first support 34, and a second support, which is described in Applicant's specification with reference to the second support 42. Second, each of the first supports is claimed as having a roller connected thereto. Third, each of the second supports is claimed as having an independently operable electric drive, which is described in Applicant's specification with reference to the electric drives 44. Finally, claim 32 explicitly states that the electric drives are configured to perform at least two independent functions, namely independent adjustment of the height of each leg, and selective engagement and disengagement of the rollers with the foundation. Applicant's specification further teaches that independent adjustment of the legs is useful both to adjust the height of the mounting table and to provide a leveling adjustment for the mounting table. The combinations of elements **as claimed** is not taught or suggested by the references of record. Furthermore, none of the references of record teach or suggest structure configured to perform the functions **as claimed**, or structure capable of performing the functions **as claimed**.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 32 and its dependent claims 33-39 are not taught or suggested by the references of record, and should be patentable. In the event that the Examiner disagrees, Applicant respectfully requests, in the interest of compact prosecution and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.104(a), that the Examiner designate the particular teachings relied upon in each cited reference and clearly explain their pertinence.

Turning now to independent claim 40 and its dependent claims 41-44, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are neither anticipated nor obvious in light of the references

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of record. Claim 40 relates generally to a modular base for an automotive stuffer fixture or closure fixture configured to perform a specific manufacturing operation.

In addition to elements similar to those explained in regard to claims 27 and 32, claim 40 includes “a programmable controller coupled to said mounting table, in electrical communication with the industrial machine, and configured to provide programming capability to the industrial machine.” This element is explained in Applicant’s specification with reference to the programmable controller 20. Applicant respectfully submits that a programmable controller configured **as claimed** is not a stock element, since it is configured to perform a dedicated function, i.e. causing the industrial machine to perform the specific manufacturing operation. There is no teaching or suggestion in the references of record to provide a modular base for an industrial machine that includes this structure.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 40 and its dependent claims 41-44 are not taught or suggested by the references of record, and should be patentable. In the event that the Examiner disagrees, Applicant respectfully requests, in the interest of compact prosecution and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.104(a), that the Examiner designate the particular teachings relied upon in each cited reference and clearly explain their pertinence.

Applicant has also submitted new claims 45-46 for the Examiner’s consideration. Applicant submits that the methods stated in those claims are neither taught nor suggested by the references of record, and thus should be patentable.

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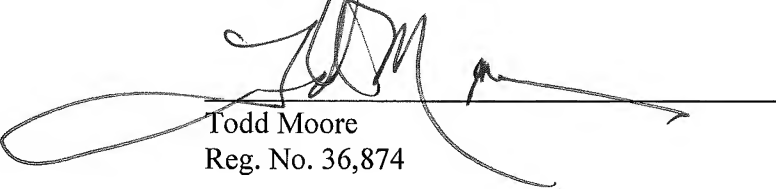
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Applicant respectfully requests that the claims, as amended, be held patentable and the instant case be allowed to proceed to issue. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned Attorney at (734) 662-0270 or by electronic mail at tlmyb@aol.com if there are any questions in regard to this matter.

Respectfully Submitted,



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